

## Testimony in Support of SB 445

Submitted by:

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Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address this committee with regards to pending legislation SB445, An act concerning certain recommendations of the task force on the sale of cats and dogs from inhuman origins at Connecticut pet shops.

The issue before us is important enough that I feel compelled to be here to give testimony before this committee. The main point is that I believe it is very important for the state to insure that all pets sold in commercial pet stores be sourced from humane origins. Under current regulations this is not always the case, and consequently new more protective laws are needed.

I do express my support for the current bill that has been proposed, however to insure that it goes far enough to be meaningful, I also ask that 2 additional critical provisions be added to the current bill.

1. A provision to prohibit new pet shops from selling commercially bred dogs, and
2. a phase-out the sale of commercially bred dogs in current pet shops.

We are asking for these 2 additional provisions, because I believe that the commercial breeding standards, as set forth by the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) are inadequate and CT's pet shops should not be doing business with commercial breeders.

So I will keep this short: Thank you for the work that has been done so far to allow this bill to progress as far as it has. I support this bill but I also urge you to strengthen the language in it, by adding the 2 critical provisions previously mentioned. This is needed to help insure that the dogs in our state are adequately protected and not subjected to inhumane conditions.

Specific details of how the Federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) is inadequate to protect dogs bred in commercial breeding facilities are listed below.

Under the AWA:

It is legal for breeders to fail to provide dogs with veterinary care (9 CFR§ 2.40);

It is legal to keep the indoor temperature no higher than 45 degrees (9 CFR§ 3.2);

It is legal to provide dogs with bedding only if the indoor or outdoor temperature falls below 50 degrees (9 CFR§ 3.2; 9 CFR § 3.4);

It is legal to expose dogs to artificial light alone and provide no natural light (9 CFR § 3.2);

It is legal to confine a dog 24/7 so that she has no more than six inches of space on all sides (9 CFR §3.6);

It is legal to provide dogs with wire flooring only and no solid flooring (9 CFR §3.6) and to confine dogs in stacked cages (9 CFR §3.6);

It is legal to fail to provide dogs with exercise or any socialization with people or other dogs (9 CFR §3.8).

It is also legal - and typical - for dogs to be bred repeatedly with little or no recovery time between litters and to be killed when "spent" after a few years. "